

Fairfield County Medical Association

Physicians Dedicated to a Healthier Fairfield County

917 Bridgeport Avenue • Shelton, CT 06484 • Tel: 203-513-2045 • Fax: 203-513-8036
Email: info@fcma.org • Website: www.fcma.org



Memorandum of Support

Fairfield County Medical Association Testimony on

S.B. 466

An Act Concerning Continuing Education Courses for Physicians

Presented to the Public Health Committee
February 20, 2013

Thank you Madam Chairman, Senator Gerratana, Madam Chairman Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak in favor of Senate Bill 466: An Act Concerning Continuing Education Courses for Physicians. My name is Paul Thompson, and I am here today testifying for the Fairfield County Medical Association. The Association represents over 1500 physicians in Fairfield County encompassing all medical specialties.

Effective October 1, 2005, Connecticut General Statute Section 20-10b required a licensed physician earn a minimum of fifty (50) contact hours of qualifying continuing medical education every two years commencing on the first date of license renewal on or after October 1, 2007.

Continuing medical education shall be in the area of the physician's practice, reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public and include at least one contact hour of training or education in each of the following topics: A) Infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, B) risk management, C) sexual assault, D) domestic violence, and after October 1, 2010, coursework in cultural competency was also required.

While most physicians would not argue these topics are important, depending upon one's medical specialty, many of these topics are not CMEs that relate to the area of the practitioner's practice, nor do they necessarily reflect the professional needs of the doctor. Case in point, a psychiatrist does not treat infectious disease, a pathologist will not encounter domestic violence, and sexual assault is not something an anesthesiologist would see or treat.

Even if these five mandated topics were relevant to one's area of medical expertise, the law requires that all physicians take the same five mandated topics every two years. This, too, makes little sense when few changes occur from year to year in the mandated subject areas. Physicians would much rather spend the five hours of time and the financial resources for CMEs on subject matters that are germane to their medical practice.

The physicians of Fairfield County support the idea that once the doctor has taken the five mandated topics, the doctor should be exempt from retaking the same courses every two years. Physicians, however, would still be required to earn a minimum of fifty (50) contact hours of qualifying continuing medical education every two years.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and we welcome any questions or comments.